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HJL. 11/07/06

Serial No. 10/734,581  
Reply to Office Action dated August 4, 2006  
Page 3

In the claims

1. (Canceled).
2. (Original) A process for bacterial oxidation of sulphide ores and concentrates characterised in that the ore or concentrate is leached using either a bacterial culture identified by AGAL deposit Accession No. NM99/07541 or a bacterial culture adapted therefrom.
3. (Original) A process according to claim 2, characterised in that the sulphide ore or concentrate contains chalcopyrite.
4. (Original) A process according to claim 2, characterised in that the leach is conducted in a form selected from the group consisting of:
  - a heap leach,
  - a tank leach,
  - a vat leach, and
  - a dump leach.
5. (Original) A process according to claim 2, characterised in that the bacterial culture is not indigenous to the ore or concentrate to be oxidised.
6. (Original) A process according to claim 2, characterised in that the ore or concentrate is provided at a grind or crush size of equal to or greater than  $P_{80}$  75 $\mu$ m.

7 (Original) A process according to claim 2, characterised in that the ore or concentrate is provided at a grind or crush size of equal to or greater than  $P_{80}$  90 $\mu$ m.

8-10. (Canceled).